

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 20879 211420Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 TRSE-00 OPR-02 MCT-01 HA-05 A-01 SY-05
USSS-00 /084 W
-----115659 211923Z /40

R 211246Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9395
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMCONSUL TRIESTE
AMCONSUL TURIN

UNCLAS ROME 20879

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS SOCI IT
SUBJ: POLITICAL VIOLENCE CONTINUES TO TROUBLE ITALIAN SCENE

REF: A. TURIN 0498 B. ROME 18866 C.ROME 20538

1. POLITICAL VIOLENCE HAS CONTINUED UNABATED IN ITALY IN THE MONTH
SINCE INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA, IN A SPEECH ON NOVEMBER 15
OPENING THE SENATE DEBATE ON PUBLIC ORDER, PRESENTED ALARMING
FIGURES WHICH SHOWED THAT THE INCIDENCE OF TERRORISM AND POLITICALLY-
MOTIVATED CRIME HAS CONTINUED TO RISE IN 1977(SEE REF B.)
A NUMBER OF TERRORIST ACTIONS SINCE NOVEMBER 15 HAVE MADE HEADLINES
ACROSS THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE FATAL SHOOTING IN TURIN
OF "LA STAMPA" VICE DIRECTOR CARLO CASALEGNO (REF A.)
AND THE FATAL STABBING OF A YOUNG PCI MEMBER IN BARI ON NOVEMBER 29
DURING A SCUFFLE INVOLVING RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST YOUTHS. THE
LATTER INCIDENT LED TO RIOTING AND VIOLENT ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN
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POLICE AND LEFTIST YOUTHS IN BARI. URBAN WARFARE STRUCK ROME
ON DECEMBER 11 WHEN EXTREME LEFTIST MARCHED
IN DEFIANCE OF A POLICE BAN. DEMONSTRATORS BURNED CARS AND DAMAGED
PROPERTY, A NUMBER OF MINOR INJURIES WERE REPORTED, AND POLICE
DETAINED OVER THREE HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE, THOUGH ONLY SEVEN WERE
SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED. MORE RECENTLY, ON DECEMBER 19, ANDER
AMONN, AN INDUSTRIALIST FROM THE NORMALLY QUIET ORTHERN CITY

OF BOLZANE, WAS KIDNAPPED AND A FAR-LEFT TERRORIST GROUP,
THE "COMMUNIST FRONT-LINE COMBATANTS CLAIMS TO BE HOLDING
HIM IN PEOPLE'S" PRISON."

2. EQUALLY DISTRESSING ARE THE DAILY ASSAULTS AND BOMB
ATTACKS CARRIED OUT BY TERRORIST GROUPS WHICH ,THOUGH THEY
SELDOM RESULT IN CASUALTIES,HAVE CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE TENSE
AND UNEASY ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH THE MORE SPECTACULAR INCIDENTS
HAVE TAKEN PLACE. THE RATE OF SUCH ATTACKS APPEARS TO HAVE
INCREASED SOMEWHAT RECENTLY. AN UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TABULATION
INDICATES THAT SINCE NOVEMBER 15 THERE HAVE BEEN AT LEAST 92
BOMBINGS OF BUSINESSES, PARTY OFFICES, POLICE STATIONS,AND
EVEN CHURCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE DC HAS BEEN THE POLITICAL PARTY

HARDEST HIT BY THE VIOLENT EXTREMISTS (25 BOMBINGS),. FOLLOWED
BY THE FAR-RIGHT MSI(9). FAR-RIGHT GROUPS HAVE CARRIED OUT ONLY
FIVE BOMBING ATTACKS ON OFFICES OF THE PCI AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS
SINCE NOVEMBER 15. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE ALMOST DAILY SCUFFLES
AND FIST FIGHTS BETWEEN EXTREME RIGHTISTS AND LEFTIST IN MANY CITIES.
THESE OCCASIONALLY LEAD TO MORE SERIOUS VIOLENCE.

3. REF C. PROVIDES AN ANALYSIS OF THE PUBLIC ORDER SITUATION
AT YEAR'S END AND DISCUSSES THE OUTLOOK FOR 1978.GARDNER

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